Bloomfield Citizen.

WEEKLY JOURNAL

PUBLISHED BY

WILLIAM A. RITSCHER, Jr.

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THE CITIZEN solicits contributions from the general public on any subject—political, religious, educational, or social—so long as they do not contain any personal attacks.

All communications must be accompanied by the writer's name, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith.

Advertisements for insertion in the current week must be in hand not later than Friday noon.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 1904.

Next Tuesday's Battle.

There has been an active campaign carried on during the past week preliminary to the special election that takes place on Tuesday, the 19th inst.

The issue is the water supply. The voters will divide on different grounds next Tuesday from those that influenced them at the special election held on November 10, 1903. At the previous election, while the question of municipal ownership was involved, the paramount issue was the price asked for the water plant. Even the most ardent municipalists were deterred from taking advantage of an opportunity to make application of their theory by the high price asked for the plant. The municipalists were right in refraining from going into business on an overcapitalized basis. But the new price asked is considered by the municipalists as about fair, and they are now ready and anxious to have the town venture into business as a purveyor of water.

The issue next Tuesday is municipal ownership. The meetings that have been held during the past week have been attended almost exclusively by advocates of municipal ownership. The remarks made by the people who have voiced their sentiments at these meetings have all been on the side of and in favor of municipal ownership. While the meetings taken singly have not been formidable either in point of attendance or arguments, yet taken in the aggregate they show a considerable and wide spread sentiment in favor of the municipal ownership theory. The weakness of the argument has not been due to any lack of ability on the part of the speakers, but solely for the lack of a target. The anti-municipalist has been a difficult fellow to find or get hold of during the past ten days, and those who have been hunting him have had to fire in the air in order to try and bring him out.

It would not perhaps be justifiable to draw any inference from the meetings held during the week. The promoters of them acted upon a commendable desire to encourage discussion of the water supply question in order that people might vote intelligently upon the subject next Tuesday. If those who favor municipal ownership displayed more animation and zeal in the search for light and knowledge than those who do not favor it, the credit is due the former.

One thing is certain, that a band of a hundred or more voters inspired with zeal and enthusiasm in a certain direction is going to make a considerable showing at the counting of the votes next Tuesday. The municipalists expect to win the election. They are going to make a diligent effort to do so. Their forces appear to be strongest where vote are most numerous, and the opposition is disorganized and indifferent.

The Primary Law.

The primary election law that was put into effect last year meets the commendation of Governor Murphy, and he says in his annual message:

"What is known as the primary election law, passed by the last Legislature, had its first trial last fall. There was some question in the minds of thoughtful citizens as to the advisability of passing such a law, and the results were looked forward to with much interest by all the people. It is gratifying, therefore, to say that the law has been very generally approved by the people of the State, even by many who questioned the advisability of the measure. The law is not quite perfect, and can be improved by some slight amendments, which will doubtless be offered during the session."

Building and Loan Election.

The Bloomfield Building and Loan Association elected these officers Monday night: President, N. H. Dodd; First Vice President, Stephen Tydemann; Second Vice President, John G. Keyler; Directors for three years—Wesley S. Lockwood, Lewis Dawkins and Adelbert H. Olmsted; Auditor for three years, Frank M. Hinkle; Director to succeed Philip Batzle for the unexpired term, Frederick J. Ogden.

Violated Ordinance.

Gustav Bruett was fined $25 Monday by Justice La Faucherie for violating the health code of Belleville Township by dumping matter in the abandoned quarry lot at Mill and Quarry streets. The complaint was made by Health Commissioner Breen. James Reardon of Clinton street and Wm. Manning of Quarry street were witnesses.

Insurance Company Officials.

The Essex County Mutual Insurance Company elected these Directors for three years Monday afternoon: Dewitt C. Baldwin, Edward C. Dodd, Winfield S. De Hart, Thomas C. Stiles and Charles W. Martin.

No Cause for Alarm.

Governor Franklin Murphy in that part of his message to the Legislature dealing with State finances says: "The receipts from incorporation fees were $244,890.33 less than last year." The Governor expresses regret over the falling off of State revenue from that source, but says it is due to natural causes. Conditions in the financial world, he says, have not been favorable for the organization of new enterprises or the incorporation of old ones. As a result the business of the State in this line has fallen off and its revenues diminished. "The receipts of the State," the Governor says, "are bound to rise and fall in sympathy with the business of the financial and mercantile world. There is no occasion for alarm. The confidence of the business community in the superiority of the corporation laws of New Jersey remains unshaken. As in the business world dull times are apt to bring a lower level of prices, so in the business of the State there have been suggestions that the fees be lowered, as other States have entered into competition for the business that has heretofore come so freely to us. I have given this matter some consideration. I have examined the laws of other States and compared the fees they charge with those charged by New Jersey, and I do not think it advisable to make any change in our fees, which are generally accepted as reasonable.

"Because of the falling off in the receipts from incorporation fees, some timid people have taken alarm, and they see in imagination the revenues of the State disappearing and the bogy of a State tax already in sight. Personally, I think much greater calamities might happen to the State than to have a State tax. My own view is that the blessings and benefits of our government would be more highly appreciated if every citizen were required to contribute a substantial sum as a poll tax to the support of the State before being allowed to vote, and I would have such tax large enough to remove the temptation from any political party to assist the citizen in its payment. We have many thousands of voters in our large cities who do not contribute a single dollar to the expenses of the State, whose protection and privileges they enjoy, and who would value their privileges more justly if they shared in their burden. This is not, however, as I am aware, the popular view, and so I think it advisable to reassure the timid of the undoubted soundness of the financial condition of the State.

"The receipts from two items alone are much more than the sum needed to pay the ordinary disbursements. The taxes from railroads were over $1,100,000. These will increase. The railroads are here to stay and their owners are adding to their value constantly. The taxes from miscellaneous corporations are over $1,100,000, and these will increase. They must have their charter somewhere, and so long as New Jersey maintains the wise and conservative position which has drawn the companies to the State, so long will they remain and others will come in increasing numbers.

"So there is every reason, I think, for confidence in the financial condition of the State. I said something last year about the surplus in the treasury (larger now than then) belonging to the people of this generation, who are entitled to the benefit of a substantial part of it. My opinion remains unchanged. Great care should be exercised so that the money shall be wisely expended, but there are some needs of the State that require favorable consideration at the hands of the present Legislature."

Voting Machines.

Governor Murphy is in favor of increasing the number of voting machines in this State. He says in his message:

"At the last session of the Legislature a law was passed providing for the introduction of voting machines in the State, and a commission was appointed charged with the duty of examination and selection of eighty-one machines. Machines of various makes were submitted and examined, and three were approved by the commission as meeting the requirements which they had fixed upon as necessary. The factories of two of the three, however, were not in a condition to enable them to deliver the machines in time for use in the fall election. The commission was therefore compelled to accept the machine of the United States Standard Voting Machine Company without competition. It should be stated, however, that this company has a fixed price from which they do not vary, and their machines are generally accepted as being the most perfect yet produced. These machines were distributed under the direction of the Secretary of State to various polling districts throughout the State, and the result of their use has elicited the most favorable reports from all the districts wherever used, without exception. The advantages of the voting machine are generally recognized, and their use is increasing rapidly. I suggest to the Legislature that if it is not thought advisable, because of the expense, to appropriate a sum sufficient to provide every polling district in the State with a machine, that provision be made for one-half or one-third, so that within two or three years the State may be fully equipped with this desirable method of registering the vote."

Death of Mrs. Bridget Conroy.

Mrs. Bridget Conroy, widow of Dennis Conroy, and a former well-known resident of this town, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Richard King, in Astoria, Long Island, early Monday morning of bronchitis, at the age of 81 years. She is survived by three sons, Patrick, James and Dennis Conroy, and two daughters, Mrs. Daniel J. Brady and Mrs. Richard King. She also leaves thirty-five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Musical Instruction.

Mrs. Bennett-Francis. For terms and further particulars call at or address 85 Race Street, Bloomfield, N. J.—*Adv't.*

Tax Board Consolidation.

Governor Murphy favors the consolidation of the State Board of Taxation and the State Board of Assessors. The Governor in his message to the Legislature says:

"In the interest of economy, as well as of efficient administration, I recommend the consolidation of the State Board of Taxation and the State Board of Assessors. The work of each is similar, and can easily be performed by a single board. The State Board of Taxation has greatly risen in usefulness and in the confidence of the people. It relieves the courts of a large number of what are known as tax cases, and disposes of them in a wise and satisfactory manner; but the Board is engaged, on the average, not more than half the time. The State Board of Assessors also do an important work and do it well. As is well known, this Board was created in 1884, when the State adopted the new method of taxing railroad and canal property, and imposed a franchise tax upon corporations. In the early years of the existence of the board its work was very important, but the principles under which it proceeds are now so well settled that its work is largely of a ministerial character, and a portion of one day each week for most of the year is about all that its members devote to its duties. While the work of the two boards is distinct, nevertheless it is of a similar character, and could easily be performed by one competent board of four persons, devoting practically their entire time to the duties of the office, in return for which they should receive proper compensation.

"I repeat my recommendation to a former Legislature that the Board of Arbitration be abolished. Whatever justification may have been, if any there was, for the original appointment of this board, has disappeared. The members doubtless would be glad to serve the people if there was anything for them to do, but no business is referred to them, and to continue the board longer is to continue a needless expense. These changes are in the line of a wise economy. A considerable sum will be saved, and no interest of the State will suffer."

Business Announcement.

George S. Overton, who has bought the business and stock of John H. Lockwood at No. 280 Glenwood avenue, is a watchmaker, jeweller and engraver of nineteen years' experience in the best shops in New York and Newark. We wish him success. His advertisement will be found in another column of this paper.

JARVIE MEMORIAL

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Open daily, except Sundays and holidays, from 2 to 6, and from 7 to 9.30 P. M.

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Reading Room Free to All.

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"BRIDAL VEIL" FLOUR.

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INSTRUCTOR

IN MUSIC : : :

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Resident Agent for the Oldest Piano Houses in New York City.

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Death of Mary S. Bowron.

Mary S. Bowron, a well-known and highly esteemed resident of this town, died at her home No. 112 Broad street, after an illness of about a month's duration. She was born in New York city and was the fourth in a family of ten children. When quite young she united with the Forty-second Street Presbyterian Church, New York city, during the pastorate of the Rev. Edward Rankin. When the family moved to Glen Ridge she united by letter with the Westminster Church of this town. She was assistant Treasurer of the Home for the Friendless, 29 East 29th street, New York city, for four years. After that she became principal of one of the schools connected with that society, and worked among the poor on the West side for a number of years.

The funeral service took place on Tuesday afternoon, and was conducted by the Rev. George A. Paull of Westminster Presbyterian Church, assisted by the Rev. George L. Curtis of the First Presbyterian Church. The service was largely attended by friends of the deceased.

In concluding the service the Rev. Mr. Paull read the following tribute to the memory of Miss Bowron which was sent to the family by a friend:

Why look on death with tearful eye,
'Tis but a passage to the sky,
To the celestial home above,
The home of peace, the home of love.
Death's but a quiet peaceful sleep,
O'er which the angels vigils keep;
'Tis but a moments parting pain,
Joy cometh when we meet again.

About School Tickets.

Michael N. Higgins appeared before a special meeting of the Town Council Monday night to make inquiry of the Council about the provisions in the North Jersey Street Railway Company's franchise relative to the sale of school tickets for the use of school children. Mr. Higgins was under the impression that there was a provision in the ordinance requiring the company to sell school tickets to children of the town attending schools within the town and applying at the company's office in Newark for such tickets. He was informed that no school tickets were sold for use within the town limits only, but children attending school out of town could purchase school tickets. Mr. Higgins was surprised to learn that such was the rule, and his visit to the Town Council Monday night was to find out if he had been correctly informed. The matter was referred to the Franchise Committee of the Council for investigation.

A Complaint.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CITIZEN:

SIR: If the CITIZEN is to be made the mouthpiece of Glen Ridge infidelity, it is time that the Christian people of Bloomfield knew what to expect in that line. We have been very patient about the MacDonald articles that have been appearing for weeks, expecting that each one would be the last, but there seems to be no limit to them, and I do not intend that reading matter of that kind shall be put in the hands of the young people of my family until they are of sufficient age to judge between accepting Mr. MacDonald's words of wisdom in a matter that he knows nothing about, or in following the example of their ancestors in being guided by God's Word in all things, which is so plain "that a wayfaring man, though a fool, can understand it."

A BLOOMFIELD CHRISTIAN.

Chas. M. Decker & Bros.

Orange, East Orange South Orange Montclair

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WE are still making extraordinary concessions in the prices of all grades of Teas, in 3, 5 and 10 lb. cartons, no charge being made for the boxes. Our Teas are also sold in 1-lb. boxes, 3, 5 or 10 of which may be purchased at the 3, 5 or 10 pound price. No charge for the boxes. Samples of any grade of Tea free upon application.

WE respectfully solicit the tea and coffee patronage of particular people.

FREE DELIVERIES EVERYWHERE.

Passing of the Grandfathers.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CITIZEN:

SIR: If report speaks true, the young men of Bloomfield who were home for the holidays from the different colleges, universities and military schools had an especially pleasant and sociable time. Oakes's pond presented a very lively scene on New Year's day. A goodly number of college boys and their friends from several other States were there: Robert Jones from Atlanta, Ga.; Harrison Lightcap from Yazoo City, Miss.; Mr. Crawford from California, who is attending the law department of Columbia University; also a number of others. Bloomfield will not always be a "town of grandfathers," which is the impression some new-comers received. X.

Grand Canyon of Arizona.

Division Passenger Agent Guy Adams of the Lackawanna Railroad is getting up a personally conducted tour for a trip to Old Mexico and the "Grand Canyon of Arizona," to join the "Gates tour," which leaves Chicago February 20, going via San Antonio, Texas; thence visiting all points of interest in Old Mexico, returning via El Paso, Texas, Los Vegas, Colorado Springs and Denver, and will travel in one of the most handsome special trains in the country. Tickets, which include meals, hotel accommodations, railroad fare, Pullman berth and every item of expense will be $500. The trip consumes one month. A postal card addressed to Mr. Adams at Newark will bring a descriptive booklet on Mexico with complete information of the trip.

BLOOMFIELD

Savings Institution,

Office: 7 Broad Street,

Bloomfield, N. J.

SURPLUS, - - $67,477.18

NEW ACCOUNTS RECEIVED

Interest Dividends Declared Jan. 1st and July 1st.